BERGEN **12-10-2025**

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PETITION TO THE EU PARLIAMENT FOR PAID EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM THRU PLACE OF EMPLYMENT ACQUIRED VIA EURES PORTAL

Objective

Establish an EU-level grant program administered through the EURES portal to finance short-term occupational qualification training with paid salary benefit for employees recruited via EURES, activated after 30 days of continuous employment.

Scope and Eligibility

- **Eligible hires**: Employees recruited and registered through the EURES portal who complete 30 days of continuous employment with the recruiting employer.
- **Eligible applicants**: Employers who hired through EURES and apply for funding on behalf of the newly hired employee on or after the hire date.
- **No employer cap**: Employers may apply for funding for any number of qualifying new hires.
- **Per-employee limit**: Each eligible employee may receive support equal to one month of paid training per 12-month period, up to a maximum of five months of support across any rolling five-year period.

Funding Structure

- **Covered items**:
  - Salary support for the employee during the training period (30–90 days).

- Costs of occupational qualification training of the same duration as the salary support.
- One certification examination fee for the first attempt where an external certification applies.

- **Maximum funding amount**: Up to 150% of the member-state statutory minimum wage for the full training period, with salary payments during training paid at 100% of the member-state minimum wage per 30-day segment.
- **Flexible training duration**: Funding may be granted for training periods starting at 30 days and extending to 90 days, calibrated to the occupational needs and training plan submitted with the application.

Implementation and Administration

- **Distribution channel**: Program administered at EU level through EURES, with Member States operating national contact points to process applications and disburse funds.
- **Application timing**: Employers submit the application on the hire date or immediately after hire; funds are released after verification that the employee has completed 30 days of continuous employment.
- **Monitoring and accountability**: Employers must submit a short occupational training plan that describes employer-employee economic benefits, scope and occupational learning objectives, and a completion report confirming that the employee has undertaken the funded qualification activities. National contact points will audit a sample of cases annually.
- **Member State complements**: Member States may introduce additional incentives for employers or employees, including top-up payments, tax credits, or complementary training grants, provided they align with EU state aid rules.

Benefits For Job Seekers

- **Faster skills acquisition**: Access to funded vocational training aligned to the employer's needs increases employability and career mobility.
- **Income security during training**: Salary support reduces financial barriers to undertaking workplace training.
- **Recognition of skills**: Funded certification and first-attempt exam fee coverage increase formal recognition of newly acquired skills.

- **Cross-border mobility**: Using EURES preserves cross-border recruitment pathways and supports integration of mobile workers in new labour markets.

Benefits For Employers

- **Lower hiring risk**: Salary support for the training period reduces upfront hiring costs and encourages employers to recruit candidates who need upskilling or are willing to train and work in new skill.
- **Faster onboarding to productivity**: Employer-funded, standardized qualifications shorten time-to-productivity and reduce on-the-job learning costs.
- **Scalable workforce development**: No cap on qualifying employees enables employers to scale hiring and training programmes in response to demand.
- **Higher retention**: Investing in qualifications and certification fosters employee loyalty and reduces turnover costs.

Benefits For the European Union Economy

- **Skills alignment**: Promotes rapid alignment of workforce skills with market needs, supporting competitiveness across sectors.
- **Reduced structural unemployment**: Facilitates placement of jobseekers into roles with clear qualification pathways, lowering mismatch and long-term unemployment.
- **Labour mobility and cohesion**: Strengthens EURES as a tool for cross-border labour mobility, balancing labour supply and demand across regions.
- **Long-term fiscal gains**: Short-term training subsidies yield medium-term returns through higher employment rates, increased tax revenue, and reduced unemployment benefits.

Proposed Legislative and Budgetary Measures

- **Legal basis**: Amend or extend the EURES framework to include targeted education grant authority and specify administrative responsibilities for disbursal and audit.
- **Budgeting**: Establish a dedicated EU budget line for the EURES Education Grant Program with an initial pilot allocation and a scalable reserve tied to demonstrated uptake and outcomes.

- **Evaluation**: Mandate a three-year pilot evaluation measuring employment retention, skill certification rates, employer satisfaction, and cost-effectiveness; adjust program parameters based on findings.

Conclusion and Call to Action

Adopt the EURES New Employees Education Grant Program to permanently integrate short-term salary support and vocational qualification funding into cross-border recruitment through EURES. This program will accelerate workforce upskilling, de-risk hiring, strengthen labour mobility, and deliver measurable benefits to job seekers, employers, and the EU economy.

With regards for the improvement of legislatures for the rights and liberties of the European citizens.

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